

153. (New) The host cell of claim 152 wherein the host cell is a mammalian cell.
154. (New) The host cell of claim 152 wherein the host cell is selected from the HEK293 cell line.
155. (New) A DNA molecule encoding modified pro- $\alpha$  chain as defined by claim 108.
156. (New) A vector comprising the DNA of claim 155.
157. (New) The vector of claim 156 wherein the vector is a plasmid, cosmid or phage.
158. (New) The vector of claim 156 wherein the vector comprises a selectable marker.
159. (New) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 156.
160. (New) The host cell of claim 159 wherein the host cell is a mammalian cell.
161. (New) The host cell of claim 159 wherein the host cell is selected from the HEK293 cell line.
162. (New) A DNA molecule encoding modified pro- $\alpha$  chain as defined by claim 115.
163. (New) A vector comprising the DNA of claim 162.
164. (New) The vector of claim 163 wherein the vector is a plasmid, cosmid or phage.
165. (New) The vector of claim 163 wherein the vector comprises a selectable marker.
166. (New) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 163.
167. (New) The host cell of claim 166 wherein the host cell is a mammalian cell.
168. (New) The host cell of claim 166 wherein the host cell is selected from the HEK293 cell line.
169. (New) A DNA molecule encoding modified pro- $\alpha$  chain as defined by claim 128.
170. (New) A vector comprising the DNA of claim 169.
171. (New) The vector of claim 170 wherein the vector is a plasmid, cosmid or phage.
172. (New) The vector of claim 170 wherein the vector comprises a selectable marker.
173. (New) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 170.
174. (New) The host cell of claim 174 wherein the host cell is a mammalian cell.

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